

School Attendance Matters

Get Your Kids to School Every Day!

You can't stay home. You're not sick.

Your school called me. What's going on? Why did you miss English class?

TIP:

Worried about your child cutting classes or skipping school?

Check attendance with your child's teacher or guidance counselor.

Here's why:

- ⇒ Students with **better attendance** are **more successful**.
- ⇒ When a lesson is missed, your child will have difficulty with lessons later on.
- ⇒ Children need to practice skills. Absent students lose practice time.
- ⇒ Many skills needed for school success can only be learned at school: how to participate in a class discussion, how to learn from other student's questions, and how to follow directions and school rules.
- ⇒ When going to school is your child's routine, later on your child will be less likely to cut classes or miss school.
- ⇒ Students who are absent a lot can lose credit, be denied summer school, take longer to graduate, and drop out.
- ⇒ Attending school regularly can help your child avoid other problems like teenage pregnancy, drug use or juvenile crime.

*You **have** to go to school **every** day.*

Here's your note to explain why you were absent. Take it to school.

Your report card is really good. You only missed 1 day of school!

See the back of this flyer to find agencies that can help.

How to Get Help in Westchester County

211: Find an agency to help you with basic needs, employment opportunities, health issues, therapy or any service your family needs.

Dial 211 or 800-899-1479 from 8AM-8PM, 7 days a week. This service, called 2-1-1, is a free and confidential helpline provided by the United Way.

FAMILY SUPPORTS

Get **family support from a staff comprised mostly of parents** who understand your struggles and can direct you to resources and supports: Family Ties: 914-995-5238

For **EMERGENCY shelter for families and children** in Westchester:

After 4 PM, call Westchester County Department of Social Services (DSS) 914-995-2099

Before 4PM, call your local DSS office (see numbers below)

For **other family assistance** such as medical care for low income families or Medicaid, food stamps, temporary assistance, homeless service, prevention services for foster care, contact: DSS through your local service center.

Mount Vernon 914-813-6164

White Plains 914-995-5898

Peekskill 914-862-5078

Yonkers 914-231-2653

Find **programs for children and teens** contact: Throughout Westchester: Westchester County Youth Bureau (WCYB): 914-995-2745. In local areas: call these local Youth Bureaus:

Mount Vernon 914-665-2344

New Rochelle 914-654-2044

Peekskill 914-734-8418

White Plains 914-422-1378

Yonkers 914-377-6436

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

1. **First register children or adults with developmental disabilities to receive services.** Call Jose DeJesus 914-995-5257 at the county's Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH)
2. **Then obtain a service coordinator** to create a plan for services chosen specifically for your child: Call Hudson Valley Developmental Disabilities Services Office (DDSO) 914-332-8959

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

For **EMERGENCY psychiatric care call**: Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) Mobile Psychiatric crisis team 914-493-7075

To find **care for a child with serious emotional, social or behavioral challenges** contact: DCMH 914-995-HELP OR Family Ties 914-995-5238

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY SERVICES

For **help with child's school related issues**, contact:

Student Advocacy 914-347-3313

Prepared by:

